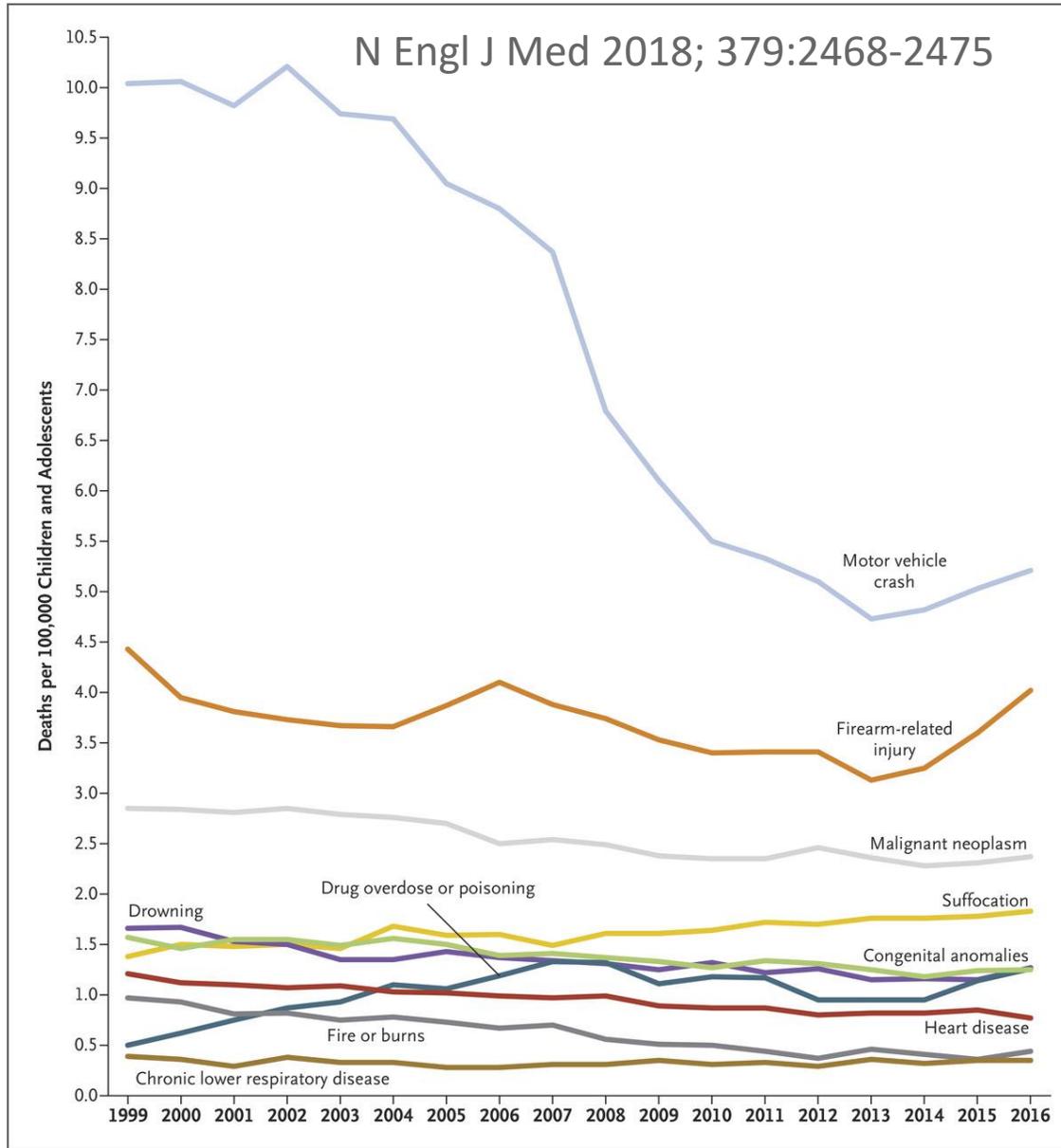


Child Passenger Safety



IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT?

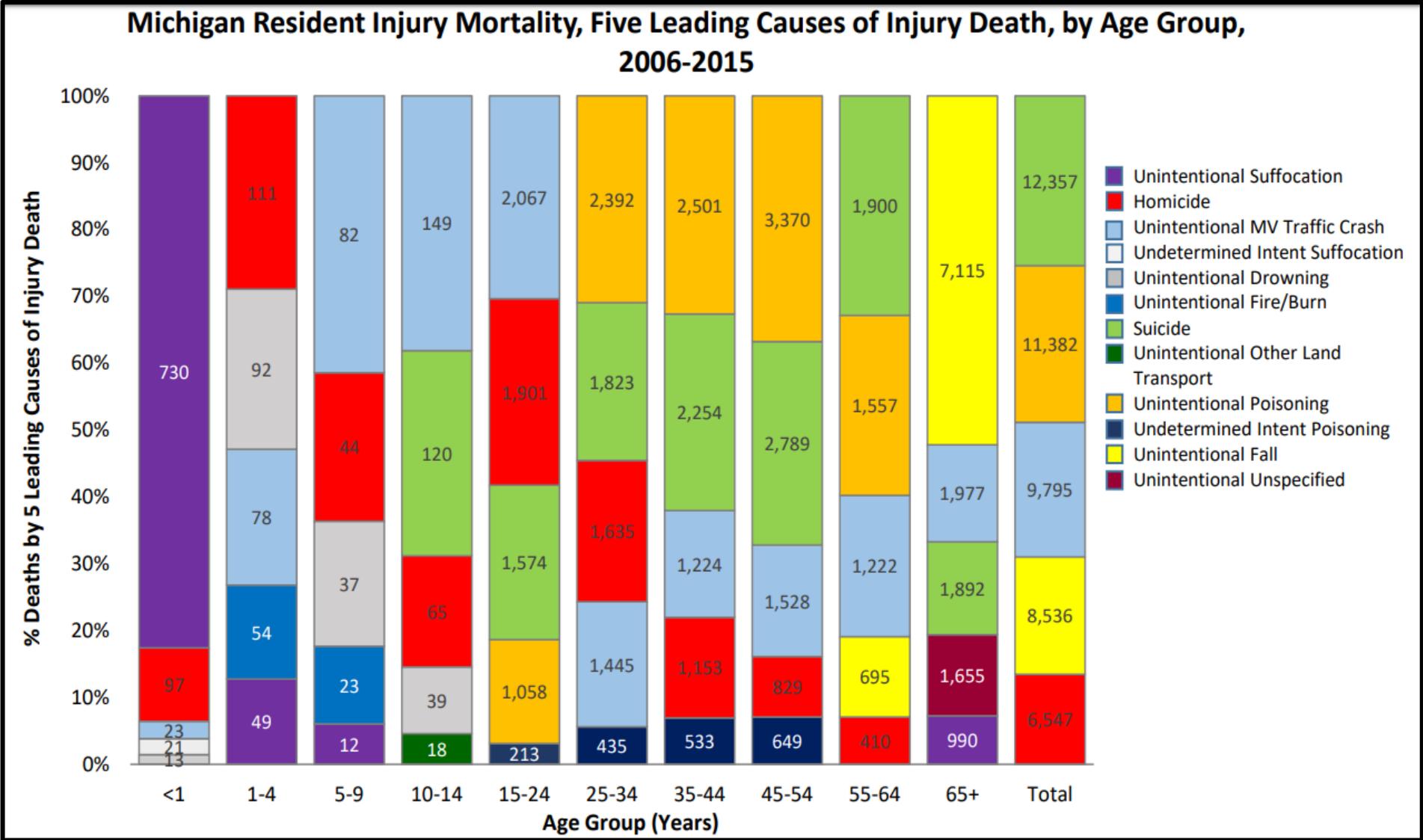
Effectiveness of Child Restraint Systems



- Motor vehicle crashes are still the leading cause of death overall in children and adolescents
- Car seats reduce the risk of death in infants by 71% and in toddlers by 54%
- Booster seats reduce the risk of injury by 46% in children 4-8 years of age
- For every child who dies in a MVA, many more are injured and require emergency care

Source: AAP State Advocacy Focus: Child Passenger Safety

Motor Vehicle Accidents: Still a Leading Cause of Death



Cars are getting safer. Drivers are more distracted





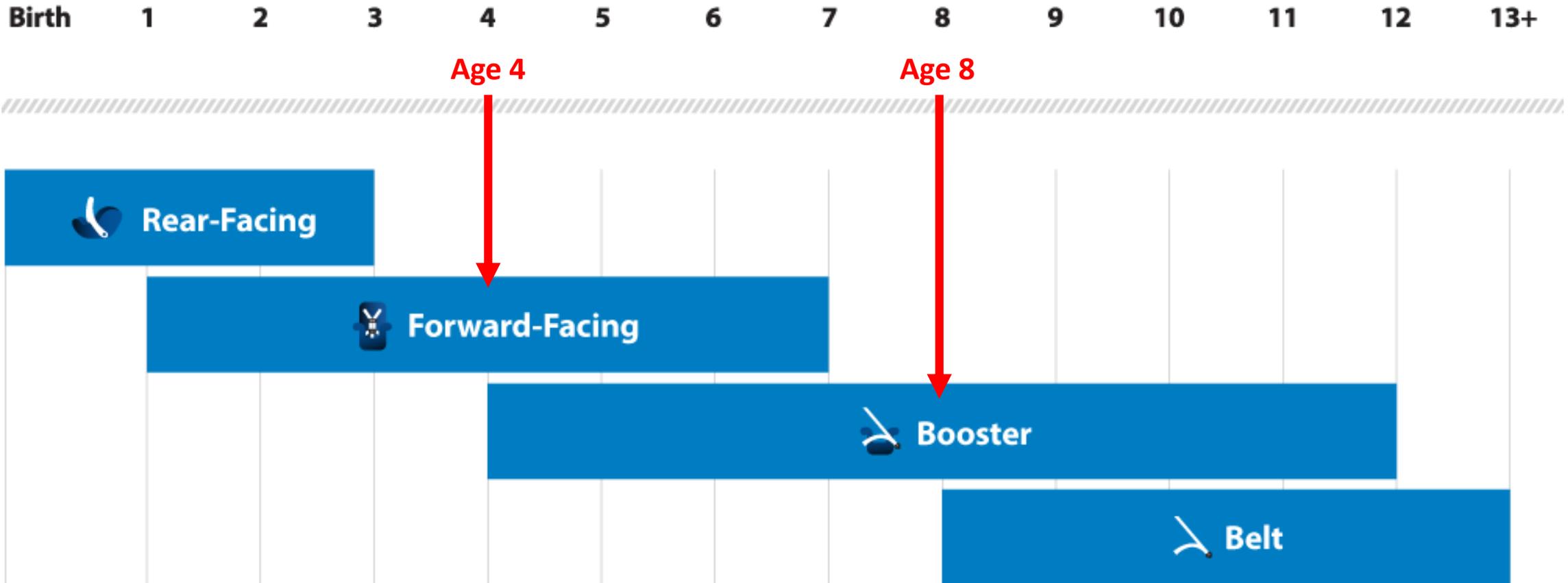
Child Car Seat Laws in Michigan

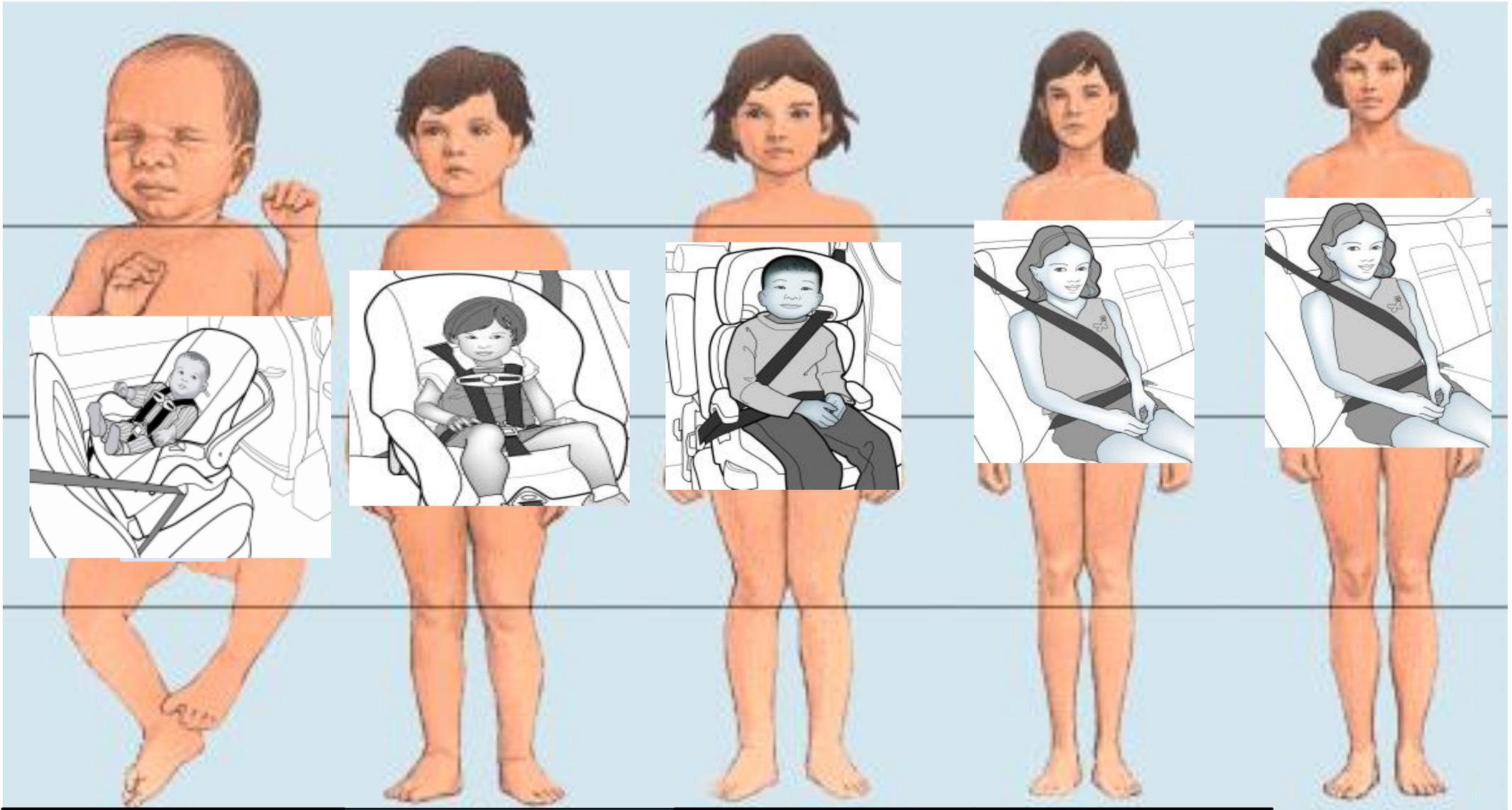
Current Michigan Statute	American Academy of Pediatrics Policy 2018
	Infants and toddlers should ride rear facing as long as possible, until they reach the highest height or weight limit. (at least until age 2)
Young children should ride in car safety seats until at least age 4.	Young children should ride in car safety seats with a five-point harness as long as possible, until they reach the highest height or weight limit
School-aged children should ride in booster seats until a height of 57 inches or age 8.	School-aged children should ride in booster seats until the vehicle lap and shoulder belt fits properly (4' 9" tall and between 8 and 12 years of age)
	Children should sit in rear seat until at least 13 years old

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Car Seat Recommendations

Current Michigan Statute





Newborns and toddlers: big heads!

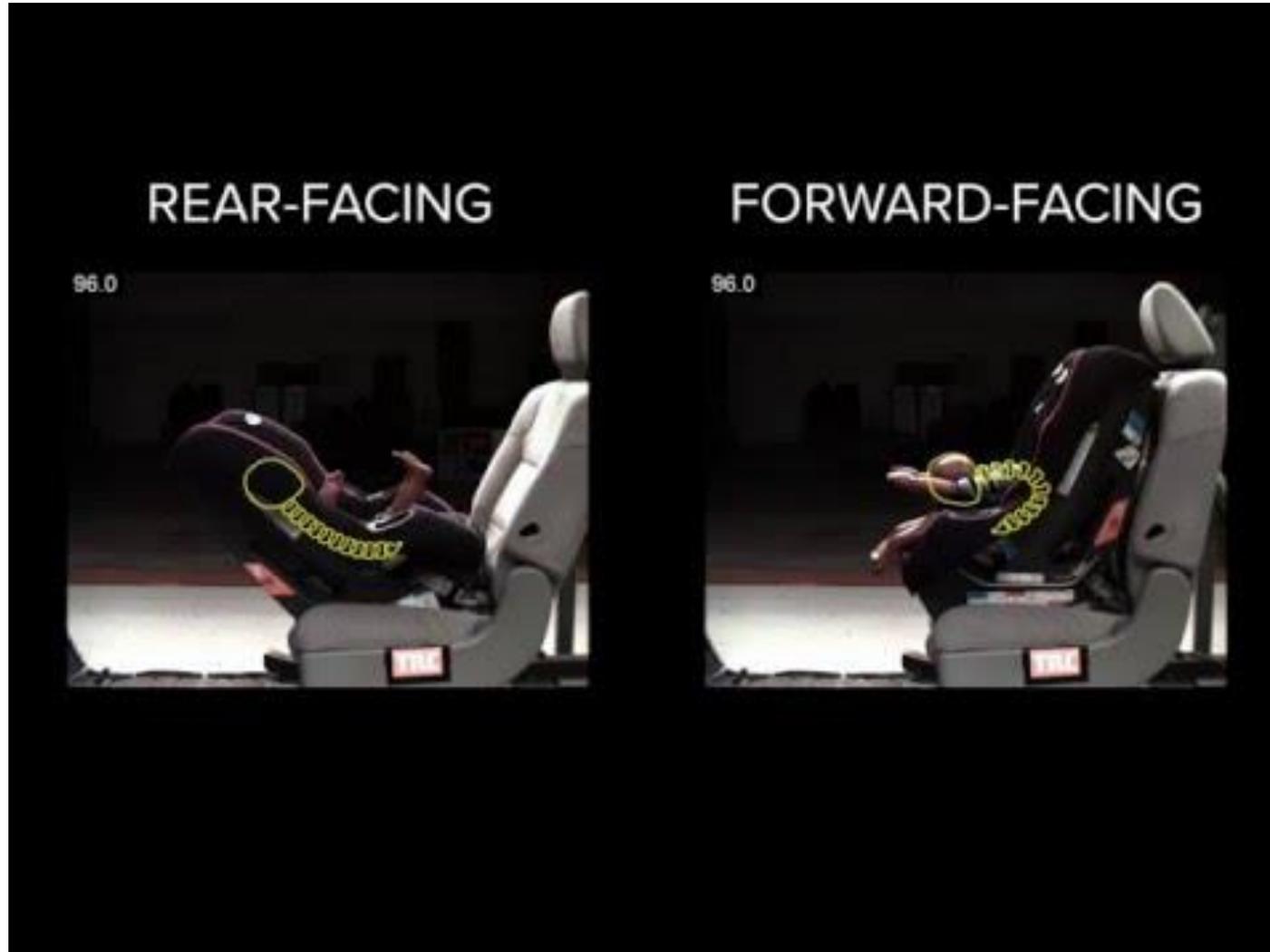
Older toddlers: need more restraint!

Age 5 and up: need more height!

Teens: can finally sit in front seat

Adult

Rear facing versus forward facing car seats: crash-testing



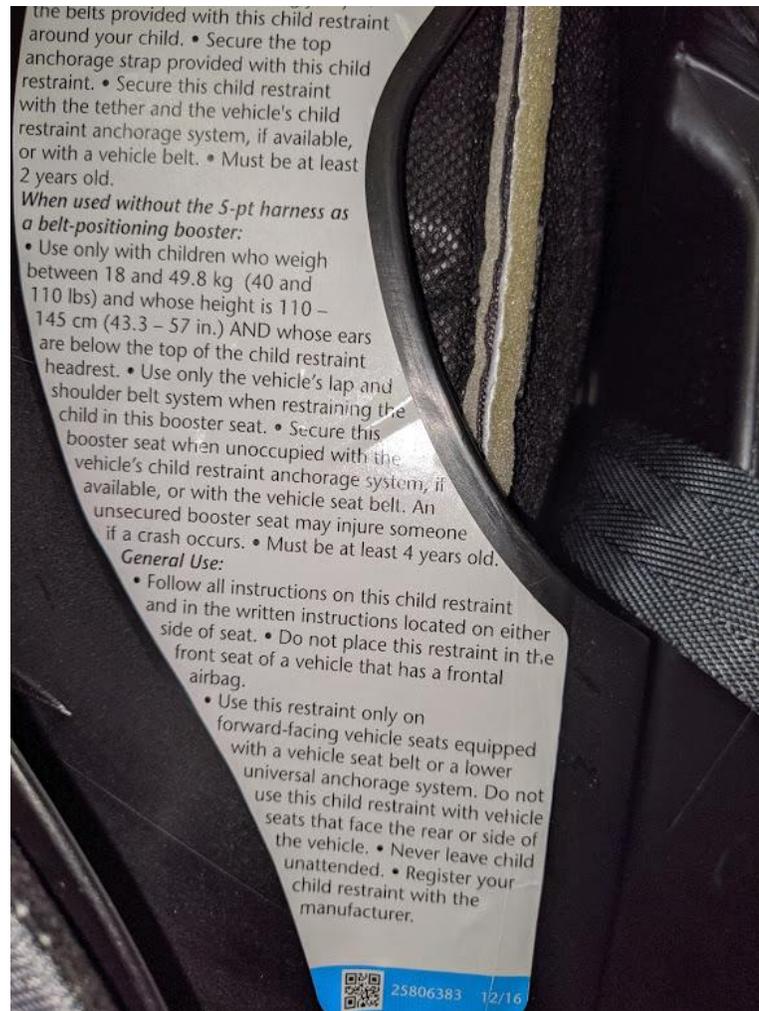
Rear-Facing Car Seats

Spreads the crash force more evenly and limits the motion of the head
Cradles and moves with the child to reduce stress on fragile necks and spinal cords



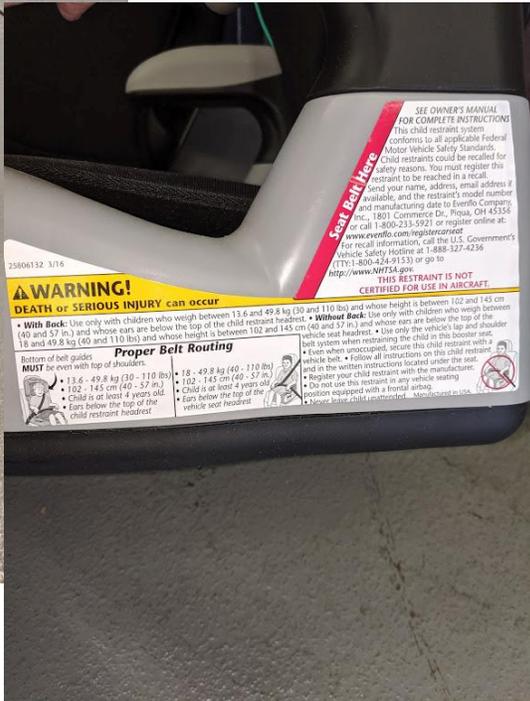
Forward-facing seats with 5-point harness system

Distributes crash forces and acts as a restraint to hold the child in place



Booster Seats

Allow positioning for proper fit of shoulder and lap belt



Other considerations

- AAP recommends that children sit in the back seat until age 13.
- Do we want unbelted 16-18 years olds in back seats?



- **Michigan laws are outdated** based on motor vehicle accident research.
- We advise based on the **2011 AAP Policy** statement. Having laws reflecting our safety guidance is key.
- **Children are safest** staying in the most protective seat for as long as they fit and seats are clearly labeled.
- **Cost to families:** none. This is an opportunity to use the seat they have for a longer period of time.
- Updating the Michigan statute provides opportunity for **education** to families on the safest way to transport children (who are in the car for an average of 3-4 trips per day).





Of the many questions you ask yourself every day, “Is my child **AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE** in the car?” should be at the top of your list.

[SAFERCAR.GOV/THERIGHTSEAT](https://www.safercar.gov/the-right-seat)

